

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Soci201: Introduction to Sociology

Spring 2011

**Lecture:** TR 11:00 AM – 1:50 PM in ST143

**Tutorial:** TR 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM in ST143

University of Calgary - Department of Sociology

Instructor: Annette Tézli, M.A.

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Office hours: TR 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM; or by appointment

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Office hours: T 3:30 – 4:40 PM; or by appointment

This syllabus is a contract between you and me and lays out the terms of our collaboration for this semester. Please read it carefully and feel free at any time to ask any questions you may have regarding its content.

### Course Objectives

Sociology is the scientific study of human action and interaction. According to sociologists, our lives are closely intertwined with the societal context in which they take place. This course will introduce you to the discipline of sociology by exploring topics and issues you are probably already familiar with and have discussed before with friends, colleagues, or family. This course intends to go beyond popular understandings of those issues to understand how society works from a sociological perspective. This course will provide you with the tools to think sociologically and sharpen your “sociological imagination”, which will make you see your everyday world in a new light. By the end of this course, you will be able to identify, analyze, explain, and critically discuss the foundations of sociology (sociological theories and research methods), the foundations of society (culture, socialization, social interaction, groups and organizations, sexuality, and deviance), the dimensions of social stratification (social class, race and ethnicity, and gender), as well as major social institutions (family, the education system, and the state).

**Please note:** Reading the assigned material, an open mind, and your active participation is required for this class to reach its fullest potential and to make it a rewarding experience for you and me. Furthermore, attendance is important in any class. If you miss a class, you will miss material relevant to your success in this course. To attend classes regularly is your responsibility. If you have to miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the covered material from one of your class mates.

### Required Readings

Macionis, J., Jansson, S., & Benoit, C. (2009). *Society: The basics* (4th Cdn. ed.). Toronto: Pearson Education Canada. **The 4<sup>th</sup> edition has been updated extensively. Please do not purchase earlier editions!**

Saramago, José (1997). *Blindness*. Orlando: Harcourt.

### Other Learning Resources

A text study guide and a variety of course related resources and quizzes are available on the text CD as well as on-line at <http://www.pearsoned.ca/macionis>.

### Course Requirements

#### *Assignment Schedule and Outline*

|                     | <b>Date due</b> | <b>% of final grade</b> | <b>Chapters covered</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Midterm I           | May 26          | 25                      | 1-5                     |
| Midterm II          | June 14         | 25                      | 6-11                    |
| Final Exam          | TBA             | 30                      | cumulative              |
| Tutorial activities | TBA             | 10                      |                         |
| Written assignment  | June 23         | 10                      |                         |

#### ***2 Midterms (25% each)***

There will be two mid-term exams composed of multiple-choice, true/false questions, and short-answer questions. See the assignment schedule for chapters covered in each exam.

#### ***Final Exam (30%)***

The final exam is Registrar-scheduled (exam period: June 27-29). The final is cumulative and is composed of multiple-choice, true/false questions, short-answer questions, and one long-answer question.

#### ***Written assignment (10%)***

The 3-5 page paper is based on the book *Blindness* by José Saramago. You will conduct a sociological analysis of the book drawing on theories and substantive topics covered throughout the semester. Detailed paper guidelines will be posted on BlackBoard (under Assignments).

#### ***Tutorial activities (10%)***

Tutorial attendance should be considered a requirement, not an option. The tutorials will give you the opportunity to engage with the material covered in class in a fun and interactive manner and thereby develop your critical thinking skills, which are essential to the “sociological imagination”. Your grade for this component will be based on a short writing assignment covering each of the four course sections. Assignments will be developed and administered by your Teaching Assistant, who will provide you with more information during your first tutorial.

**Grading Scale**

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

|    |           |    |          |    |          |    |             |
|----|-----------|----|----------|----|----------|----|-------------|
| A+ | 95 – 100% | B+ | 80 – 84% | C+ | 67 – 69% | D+ | 54 – 58%    |
| A  | 90 – 94%  | B  | 75 – 79% | C  | 63 – 66% | D  | 50 – 53%    |
| A- | 85 – 89%  | B- | 70 – 74% | C- | 59 – 62% | F  | 49% or less |

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms. **To receive a passing grade in this course, all course requirements must be completed.**

**Assignment Policies**

If you are unable to take an exam or hand in an assignment on time, you must notify me in advance, if possible. All requests for a deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while you have the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student. If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, I can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If I schedule a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Assignments handed in late without good cause as defined above are subject to a 5 percentage point deduction per day past the due date. You will not be able to make up assignments not handed in. There are absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS!

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U of C Calendar. You can find the forms you need online:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATION\\_S.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATION_S.pdf)

Deferred Term Work Form: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre. Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions. To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

**Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades**

1. When you are unable to submit papers in class, you should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to me or the teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.

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2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor's office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

**Academic Accommodation**

If you have a disability and require academic accommodation, you need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). It is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required. Please provide me with your academic accommodation letter no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. Please submit the Instructor Confirmation Sheet for signature. It is your responsibility to book accommodated exams at the Disability Resource Centre.

**Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Please be advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

**Reappraisal of Grades and Academic Appeals**

If you chose to challenge a grade you received for an exam or assignment, please refer to the Reappraisal of Grades and Academic Appeals section of the University Calendar and follow the procedures outlined therein.

**Ethics Research**

Please be advised that any research involving human subjects - including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, you must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing your plans with me, to determine if ethics approval is required.

**Protection of Privacy**

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department's main office. I will return written assignments individually during class, or during my office hours. If you are unable to pick up your assignment, you may provide me with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of your assignment.

**Emergency evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Social Science Food Court.

**Campus Safety**

The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. You can also contact Campus Security from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

Subject to change. Changes will be announced and discussed in class.

| <b>Date</b>                            | <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Readings</b>  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>1. The Foundations of Sociology</b> |   |  |
| May 12                                 | Introduction<br>1.1. Sociological perspectives                                | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 1                               |
| May 17                                 | 1.2. Sociological theories<br>1.3. Research methods                           | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 1                               |
| <b>2. The Foundations of Society</b>   |   |  |
| May 19                                 | 2.1. Culture<br>2.2. Socialization  | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 2 & 3                           |
| May 24                                 | 2.3. Social interaction<br>2.4. Groups and organization                       | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 4 & 5                           |
| May 26                                 | <b>Midterm 1</b> (first half of the class)<br>2.5. Deviance<br>2.6. Sexuality | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 6 & 7                           |
| <b>3. The Dimensions of Inequality</b> |   |  |
| May 31                                 | 3.1. Class based stratification   | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 8                               |
| June 2                                 | Class based stratification (cont.)<br>3.2. Global stratification              | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 8<br><i>Society</i> , Chapter 9 |
| June 7                                 | 3.3. Gender based stratification  | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 10                              |
| June 9                                 | 3.4. Race and Ethnicity based stratification                                  | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 11                              |
| <b>4. Major Social Institutions</b>    |   |  |
| June 14                                | <b>Midterm 2</b> (first half of the class)<br>4.1. Education                  | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 14, p. 378-390                  |
| June 16                                | 4.2. Family   | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 13, p. 341-357                  |
| June 21                                | 4.3. Economics and Politics   | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 12                              |
| June 23                                | <b>Written assignment due</b><br>4.4. Social Change                           | <i>Society</i> , Chapter 16                              |